

Glossary of Scout Terms and Acronyms

Adult Patrol: When the troop goes camping, all of the adults will form their own patrol for meal planning, shopping, cooking, eating, and sleeping. The adults try and set a good example of how a patrol should operate. The Adult area is “off-limits” to Scouts.

Annual Planning Session: Troop Scout Leaders meet offsite to plan the year’s activities with input from the Scout Leaders within Troop 599 and the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his team of adults. This plan is then presented to the Troop Committee (see below) for approval to make sure the plan meets BSA guidelines and that necessary resources can be provided. This annual session normally takes place in mid-August.

ASM - Assistant Scoutmaster: In Troop 599, we have more than 35 “trained” ASM’s that assist the Scoutmaster in providing adult leadership to our Scouts.

ASPL - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader: In Troop 599, we typically have several ASPL’s in the Thunderbird patrol, including:

- ASPL for Programs,
- ASPL for Outings
- ASPL for Patrols
- ASPL for Patrol Guides
- ASPL for Special Projects and Membership
- ASPL for Equipment (Quartermasters) – 2

ARQ - Advancement Review Questionnaire: ARQ’s are used by Scoutmasters and Patrol Advisors to ensure that Scouts who advance to higher ranks continue to remember and work on Scout Skills. The Advancement Review Questionnaire can be found on the Troop Website.

Be Prepared: The motto of Boy Scouting.

Blue Card: In order to work with a Merit Badge Counselor, the scout must first obtain a Blue Card from our Merit Badge Coordinator. Blue Cards are the record of Merit Badge progress and are turned in to receive the Merit Badge after all the requirements have been met and the counselor has signed off the card. The scout should keep his copy of the blue card until after he has reached the Rank of Eagle.

BOR - Board of Review: As a requirement for each rank advancement a Scout must appear individually before a group of Troop adults (members of Troop Committee) to ensure that the scout has met the requirements for that rank. Boards of Review generally take place after Scoutmaster Conferences (see below) for Rank Advancement and are typically held on the first Thursday night of each month of the Scouting year. Eagle Boards of Review are conducted at the district level.

Boy Scout Ranks: In order of increasing rank:

- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class

- Star
- Life
- Eagle
- Eagle Palms: Bronze, Gold, Silver

Buddy System: Whenever a scout needs to go somewhere at camp, hiking, Merit Badge Class, etc., it is always done in groups of at least two. A Scout always takes a “buddy” scout with him. Also used as part of the “Safe Swim Defense” program.

Camporee: Campout attended by many of the troops within the district. Usually there are various competitions between the patrols attending. Our Camporee normally takes place in March.

Chaplain: Adult member of the Troop Committee who provides guidance to scouts related to observance of the 12th point of the Scout Law – A Scout is Reverent. This adult works with the Chaplain Aide, a youth leader.

Charter Organization: The organization that is officially chartered by the Boy Scouts of America to carry out the scouting program. Our Charter Organization is Memorial Drive United Methodist Church.

Class A or B Uniform: Different types of activities require different uniforms. Class A is the complete, formal uniform, Class B is a light blue t-shirt often worn for camp, overnight campouts or for other activities.

COH – Court of Honor: An awards ceremony at which scouts are recognized for their rank advancements, merit badges earned and other awards. We typically have regular Courts of Honor in the fall, winter and spring. There are separate Eagle Courts of Honor.

Commissioner: Adult volunteers working at the district or council level. Unit commissioners are assigned to units and should be a friendly resource to the unit leaders.

Council: A group of districts make up a Council. Our Sam Houston Area Council is the largest Council in the United States.

Cracker Barrel: A scout term for a social gathering with refreshments after a meeting or activity. This is often an evening activity at camp before taps.

Den Chief: A Boy Scout who helps a Den Leader direct the activities of a Cub Scout den. The Den Chief is the preferred Position of Responsibility (POR) for a newly minted First Class Scout.

District: A subdivision of a council. We are a member of the Mustang District.

Dutch Oven: A large cast iron covered pot used to bake and cook in over a wood or charcoal fire. As a Troop, we regularly have enjoyed Iron Chef Dutch Oven contest between Patrols.

EBlast: A weekly email sent to all Troop adults who sign up for it. This helpful tool outlines upcoming programs, outings and other Troop information, during the Scouting year. Please sign up for the weekly EBlast on the Website.

E-Rock – Enchanted Rock State Park: An annually campout held in January. Scouts, their families and Thunderbird alums enjoy a great weekend of rappelling and climbing.

Fast Start Training: This online training is a quick orientation for new leaders. See www.scouting.org/boyscouts/faststart/

FCE Program: Our First Class Emphasis program meets each Tuesday night at 6:30 and helps newer Scouts complete their initial Scout ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class) in a fun, safe environment. This class is overseen by Adult Scouters and taught by older Scouts.

Food Drive: Held in the fall and aimed at re-stocking the pantry at a local Food Pantry, as designated by MDUMC. This program, an annual tradition, is recognized by SHAC as our contribution to the Scouting for Food: National Good Turn event.

Friends of Scouting (FOS): Friends of Scouting is the annual fund raiser for the council. The council does not get any share of your registration fee and is grateful for your donation through FOS.

Good Turn: “Do a Good Turn Daily” is the Scout Slogan. A good turn is something you do without being asked or expected to do it and for which you expect no reward.

Grubmaster (Adult): An adult who agrees to plan a meal and oversee the purchase/preparation of the meal and oversee the clean-up of that meal during a Troop campout. All adults are expected to assist in the preparation/clean-up of at least one meal on each campout, but not all adults need to act as a Grubmaster for adults.

Grubmaster (Scout): The Scout member of a patrol charged with planning menus for a campout and purchasing/overseeing the preparation of the food on that Troop outing.

Guide to Safe Scouting: This booklet is the “Bible” when it comes to safety related issues in scouting. Those items in BOLD print are rules that MUST be followed. Everything else in the booklet are recommendations that should be followed. Troop leaders frequently consult this to see if planned activities are being done safely and within prescribed BSA policy.

IHR - Individual History Report: One of the documents that must be taken, by a Scout, to his Scoutmaster conferences for advancement. The IHR is the most u-to-date accounting of an individual’s progress toward a rank advancement (including Merit Badges, Service Hours and other advancement activities). IHR’s are available on Troopmaster.

IOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills: A weekend training course for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters designed to teach them the skills to get a Scout to the First Class rank. This is an excellent program that is highly recommended. You are not considered a fully trained ASM until you have taken this course.

Jamboree: Scout meeting or camp out on a grand scale. There are district, regional, national, and international jamborees.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: A youth between 16 and 18 who has already held major leadership positions within the troop. Appointed by the Scoutmaster to help in guiding the troop and mentoring youth leaders.

King Ranch Weekend aka Mountain Man Rendezvous: Perhaps the most beloved of all our annual campouts, this November weekend has been held for more than 45 consecutive years and is hosted by the family of one of the Troop’s founders, Pat King, on the King Ranch in central Texas.

Leadership Training: A training class taught by the adult leaders for newly elected and appointed youth leaders. This is different from National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), which is a national BSA program.

LNT - Leave No Trace: A set of guidelines that set standards for outdoor activities that are environmentally sound and considerate to others using the same area.

Merit Badge Sash: As scouts earn Merit Badges they are sewn on a Merit Badge Sash (available at the Scout Shop). The Merit Badge Sash is normally worn only for formal occasions such as a Court-of-Honor.

NYLT – National Youth Leadership Training: youth leadership development training offered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The program is conducted at the council level over a week or over two weekends. It is intended to provide standardized, in-depth training covering a number of leadership ideas and skills for Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturers. This training is an element of the overall leadership training program.

OA - Order of the Arrow: A national brotherhood of Scout honor campers of the Boy Scouts of America. Members are elected by their peers after meeting basic requirements of camping knowledge and experience. Boys and adult leaders can be elected to the OA. The OA motto of “Cheerful Service” indicates their purpose. They are often found improving scout camps, running council events, and providing service to the scouting community.

OA Ordeal: The initiation ceremony experience for new OA members generally involving personal introspection, service to improve camp or trail and ceremonies based on Indian legend or lore.

Palms, Eagle: After a scout reaches the rank of Eagle, they can earn a Palm for every 5 additional Merit Badges they complete and three months of leadership time in the troop. You may wear only the proper combination of Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the 21 required for the rank of Eagle. The Bronze Palm represents five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15. For example a scout with 20 additional Merit Badges would wear a Silver and a Bronze Palm.

Patrol: The Patrol is the basic unit within a troop. Made up of 6-10 scouts who camp, cook and eat together. They work as a team at various activities and events. They elect their own leader.

Patrol Equipment: The Patrol Equipment consists of stoves, lanterns, and cooking equipment. The Patrol is responsible for the storage and upkeep of this equipment. This equipment is stored and transported in Patrol Boxes which need to be cleaned after each outing.

PL - Patrol Leader: The elected leader for the patrol. An Assistant Patrol Leader can be elected or appointed by the PL to help in running the patrol. The Patrol Leader is considered a Position of Responsibility (POR) for rank advancement.

PLC - Patrol Leaders Council: The PLC is made up of the youth leadership of the troop, which includes the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, and Guides. They meet once a month to plan the following month’s activities and annually to plan the upcoming year.

PFD - Personal Floatation Device: is otherwise known as a life vest. Those used in scouting must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.

Philmont: A high adventure Boy Scout camp located in the northeast corner of New Mexico.

POR - Position of Responsibility: To advance in the more senior ranks a scout must hold a leadership Position of Responsibility” for a specific period of time. These POR’s must be approved by the Scoutmaster/Patrol Advisor.

Re-charter: Annual process of re-registering the troop, Scouts and Scouters. The Committee Chairperson usually collects the information and 3 months dues and presents updated paperwork to the council in January of each year.

Remind: A Scout driven texting program that allows Troop Scout Leaders to communicate via text messages. It is highly recommended that all Scouts and Families participate in Remind.

Safe Swim Defense: A eight-step plan for conducting swimming activities in a safe manner.

Safety Afloat: Guidelines for safe troop activities utilizing water craft.

Scouter: Any registered adult leader.

SM - Scoutmaster: Adult leader who trains and guides the youth leaders in carrying out the Scouting program. One or more Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) help the Scoutmaster and are often assigned specific roles and duties.

Scoutmaster Conference: A formal meeting that takes place at a troop meeting or activity between a Scout and the Scoutmaster, or designated ASM, to review a scout’s progress. A Scoutmaster Conference takes place at advancement time prior to a Board of Review, when a Scout requests it or if the Scoutmaster feels the Scout needs it.

Scoutmaster-Specific Training: The basic Adult Leader Training for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. This is an excellent training program for any adult wanting to become more involved in the Boy Scout program, or who just wants to learn more about how the program works.

Scouting Skills: The specific skills that a Scout will learn and demonstrate proficiency for rank advancement – knots, lashings, camping, fire building, first aid, backpacking/hiking, Leave No Trace, plants/animal identification, compass, orienteering, and others.

Scout Spirit: The way a scout tries to live up to the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan, and motto in his everyday life.

Seabase: A high adventure Scout camp located in the Florida Keys.

SPL - Senior Patrol Leader: The senior most elected youth leader of the troop. The SPL is in charge of the troop at all functions and activities. He appoints all Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) to help him in running the troop. The SPL is elected by the Scouts for a one- year term.

Silver Beaver: A recognition given by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth within the council. Charlie Handly from Troop 599 received the silver beaver award in 2014.

Staff – the patrol of ASPLs that make up the youth leadership of the troop.

This Is Scouting: An introductory online training course which focuses on the aims of scouting and the various scouting programs.

Totin' Chip: A certification that enables the bearer to use knives, axes, and saws. It must be earned by the Scout through educational and hands-on safety sessions led by an adult leader or older scout appointed by the scoutmaster. If a Scout is observed doing something unsafe with a sharp tool, his card may be taken away, and must be re-earned.

Tour Permit: A document that must be filed with the council office before any official scouting activity can take place. Special permits are required for travel out-of-state, over 500 miles, or for flying activities.

Troop Committee: Adult committee of registered adults that provide oversight, assistance, and guidance to the Scoutmaster in carrying out the scouting program within the troop. The Troop Committee is responsible to provide the necessary resources requested by the PLC and Scoutmaster that are required to carry out the scouting program. All *registered* adults are part of the Troop Committee and all adults are welcome to attend our Troop Committee Meetings, normally held on the first Monday evening of each month at 7:00 PM, in the Scout Lodge.

Troop Committee Chairman: A registered adult appointed by the Chartered Organization to chair the Troop Committee. This person presides at Troop Committee meetings and works closely with the Chartered Organization Representative (COR) and Scoutmaster (SM) to ensure the scouting program meets BSA guidelines. The Chairman of our Troop Committee is Walter Brookhart.

Troop Committee Challenge: A training course for Troop Committee Chairs and Committee members.

Troop Guide: An older Scout who is assigned to the FCE program, as a Position of Responsibility (POR), to help and guide new Scouts through the Scouting program during their first year in the troop.

Troopmaster: The web-based advancement tracking system that we utilize to ensure that Troop 599 Scouts' advancements are recorded and stored properly. This does not replace the Scout-used Scout Handbook, which each Scout must utilize and keep.

Two Deep: Two Deep Leadership is a Boy Scout Policy. A minimum of two adults must always be present with any youth. One of these adults must be 21 years old. This is part of the BSA Youth Protection Guidelines.

Wood badge: Advanced Training for Boy Scout adult leaders. Any adult who has taken Basic Leader Training can attend this advanced training course to expand their knowledge of the scouting program and be of more help to the troop